

March 9, 2006

MLPA Initiative  
c/o California Resources Agency  
1416 Ninth Street, Suite 1311  
Sacramento, California, 95814

Via email: [mlpacomments@resources.ca.gov](mailto:mlpacomments@resources.ca.gov)

Dear Mr. Isenberg and other members of the MLPA Blue Ribbon Task Force:

The Planning and Conservation League strongly supports the Marine Life Protection Act Initiative "MPA Package 2" currently being considered by the Department of Fish and Game and the MLPA Blue Ribbon Task Force. We believe this package is the most environmentally sound of the three options currently under consideration and represents a prudent choice at a time when California fisheries and marine environments are ailing and in critical need of additional protections.

In February of 2006 the Joint Ocean Commission Initiative gave the Bush administration and state governors a D+ grade for their protection of our nation's oceans, stating that the current lack of progress could imperil the oceans' health and abundance if problems are left untended much longer. In light of these disturbing pronouncements, we applaud the MLPA Blue Ribbon Task Force for moving forward with this first stage of protections. Selection of Package 2 would be the most appropriate next step to improve our failing grade and recover our coastline for all Californians.

While Package 2 does not preserve the most area, it produces the greatest conservation benefits for each mile closed, achieving the maximum "network effect." Also, the protected areas described in this option mirror much of the recent onshore Hearst Ranch acquisition. Protection of those waters would greatly complement this new resource.

The Planning and Conservation League is a strong advocate for improving our marine environments as part of our duty to the "public trust." Because of the threat posed to California's coast from continuation of the status quo, we urge you to support MPA Package 2.

Sincerely,

Matt Vander Sluis